



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### DEQ APPROVES WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAMS FOR ST. HELENA PARISH PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality approved a Wellhead Protection Program, for community water systems in St. Helena Parish. This program is designed to prevent contamination of water wells for the public water supply systems. The systems include the Cross Roads Waterworks Association, Darlington Waterworks Association, Dennis Mill Waterworks, the Town of Greensburg, Montpelier Water Supply, Pine Grove Waterworks Association, and Waterworks District #2 of St. Helena.

To obtain a state approved Wellhead Protection Program, a water system must complete a contingency plan for backup procedures and post-disaster recovery in the case of an emergency. The water system must also consider best management practices to protect the drinking water well. Water System personnel worked with DEQ staff to implement the program. Signs that read "Drinking Water Protection Area" will be posted where the edge of the protection area intersects a major roadway to remind citizens that a water well is in the area.

Previously, under the Source Water Assessment Program, DEQ set up protection areas around every public water system in the state and located all potential sources of contamination in these areas. Each water system received a report that shows the locations of every potential contamination source. The report, which also states how susceptible each water system is to contamination, is available for public viewing at the water system's office.

It is important for citizens to know how to protect their water systems. To protect drinking water in your community, be aware of activities around public water systems that could cause contamination such as leaks or spills. Citizens also need to properly dispose of wastes, such as used oil, and use non-hazardous cleaning products. For more information on drinking water protection, contact DEQ's Aquifer Evaluation and Protection at P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 or by phone at 225-219-3510.